

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**USE EXCLUSION**

(acre)  
CODE 472

**DEFINITION**

Excluding animals, people or vehicles from an area.

**PURPOSE**

To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area to maintain or improve the quantity and quality of natural resources or minimize liability and human health concerns.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

On all land uses where permanent or temporary use exclusion is needed.

**CRITERIA**

Barriers shall consist of either natural and/or artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences, gates, electronic and sonic devices, or signs.

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals or people and not be a safety hazard.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purposes.

To prevent accidents associated with the use of vehicles, barriers associated with roads and trails shall be adequately marked to safeguard human safety and minimize the risk of liability.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

Assess potential landowner and user liability before installing barriers.

Public use may be an issue in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.

Barrier type and design should account for and minimize impact to impair wildlife health and animal movement.

Barriers should account for and minimize public safety activities such as fire control.

***Planning***

*Exclusions should be located to provide additional benefits where applicable.*

*Aesthetics shall be a consideration in the selection of materials and the placement of barriers.*

*If fencing is used to exclude livestock from an area, it should be planned and installed to conform to Practice Standard 382-Fence.*

*Exclusions should be maintained to provide protection as long as needed to achieve the desired results in the area. Use exclusion may be applied with Practice Standard 528-**Prescribed Grazing** to meet stated objectives.*

*Either vehicle, livestock, or human traffic should be excluded from the following areas as appropriate:*

- *Critical area plantings until proper protection is obtained.*
- *Forest or tree plantings until the understory vegetation can be grazed without damaging trees. In general, six feet in height is sufficient to protect trees from cattle.*
- *Areas abused by overgrazing and/or soil compaction until vegetation increases and soil compaction is reduced.*
- *Stockwater storage facilities.*
- *Critical habitat for endangered plants or animals and other wildlife.*
- *Recreation, archeological and historical sites.*
- *Wet areas and areas with soils that are susceptible to critical erosion.*
- *Watersheds used for agricultural, municipal and domestic water supplies.*

## **Practice Effects**

### **Soil**

*Excluding the use from an area will result in improved vegetative cover and a reduction in soil compaction. Sheet and rill erosion will be reduced because of increased vegetative cover and increased water infiltration. Erosion from concentrated flow will be reduced because of increased vegetation and reduced runoff. Wind erosion will be reduced because of increased vegetative cover.*

### **Water**

*Increased infiltration should cause a reduction in surface runoff and a potential for increase and extended water yields. Excluding hoofed animals along streams*

*and other water bodies should reduce hoof-induced sloughing which can decrease water storage and conveyance capacity. Water quality will also be enhanced because the amount of sediment and manure reaching surface waters will be reduced. The improved vegetative cover will act as a filter to trap the movement of dissolved and sediment attached substances from entering ground and surface waters.*

### **Air**

*Air quality should improve somewhat because of the reduced wind erosion.*

### **Plant**

*There should be an increase in the number of plants for the intended use. In addition, the overall vigor and health of desired species and the plant community in general should improve.*

### **Animal**

*Wildlife will benefit by excluding livestock, people and/or vehicles from an area. The quality and quantity of food as well as shelter for wildlife should increase, depending on the land use and wildlife species concerned. The improved vegetative condition and improvement in water quality will enhance wildlife health, improve habitat quality and may contribute to a more diverse fauna.*

*For additional information on the physical effects on this practice on resource concerns, refer to Section V of the FOTG.*

## **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

*Site-specific specifications which document the requirements for installing, operating and maintaining the practice on a particular site to achieve its intended purpose(s) shall be prepared in accordance with this standard. .*

*Each site-specific specification will include the following elements:*

- *Barriers, signs or other devices to be installed.*
- *Managing operations to exclude traffic of persons, livestock or vehicles from an area.*
- *Area designated to be excluded.*
- *Period of time for which exclusion is needed to achieve purposes.*
- *Maps or illustrations as needed.*

*The site-specific specifications shall be documented on the NRCS Hawaii Jobsheet for this practice and given to the client. Other documents, such as worksheets, maps, drawings, and narrative statements in the conservation plan may be used to plan or design the practice and to prepare the site-specific specifications.*

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed.

## **BASIS OF ACCEPTANCE**

- *On-site visits will be conducted periodically during the exclusion period to determine if the method of exclusion is effective.*
- *At the end of the exclusion period an on-site visit will be made to determine if the purposes for the exclusion were achieved.*

## **REFERENCES**

- Geo Engineering & Testing, Inc. 1986. Guam Erosion and Sedimentation Control Manual. Guam Environmental Protection Agency, Agana, Guam. 142 pp.*
- Smith, B., P. Leung, and G Love. 1986. Intensive Grazing Management: Forage, Animals, Men, Profits. The Graziers Hui, Kamuela, Hawaii. 350 pp.*